

## Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims is intended to supercede all previously filed listings of claims. Changes are shown with deletions in ~~striketrough~~ and additions underlined.

Kindly enter the following amendments to the claims:

**Claim 1 (currently amended).** A method for compressing and decompressing digital terrain elevation data, images, or graphs in at least two dimensions, including the steps of:

computing a numerical approximation to at least one of the slope, curvature, and/or another predetermined geometric feature, and storing the numerical approximation together with data values prescribed at certain predetermined locations;

applying a suitable compression technique to the geometric feature; and

retrieving the image;

wherein the retrieving step is carried out by numerically solving for the viscosity solution of the Eikonal Equation, using a source term derived from the compressed slope.

**Claim 2 (cancelled).**

**Claim 3 (currently amended).** The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieving step is ~~carried out by numerically solving for the viscosity solution of the Eikonal Equation, using a source term derived from the compressed slope of the slope,~~ repeated N times, with N taken from the degree of the differential operator associated with the geometric feature.

**Claim 4 (currently amended).** The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the retrieving step is carried out by numerically solving for the viscosity solution of the Eikonal equation, first using a source term derived from the compressed slope, then~~ the viscosity solution is solved by adding the source term derived from the compressed slope to ~~using~~ a source term derived from the error in the compressed slope, ~~and then adding the resulting~~.

**Claims 5-30. (cancelled)**